

Message Text

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44

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02 ACDA-05 /091 W

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R 131140Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6609

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIAWASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VALLETTA 0043

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, MT, LY, SA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF U.S. JEEPS FOR LIBYAN
MILITARY USE

1. PHILIP BONELLO, PRINCIPAL IN MALTESE FIRM
CIANTAR BROS. LTD. (IMPORTER AND DEALER, PRIMARILY
IN FOODSTUFFS) DURING ROUTINE COMMERCIAL CALL REQUESTED
ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN PURCHASING U.S.
JEEPS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR A "FRIEND OF LONG ACQUAINTANCE
WHO HAS GOOD CONNECTIONS WITH LIBYAN MILITARY."
QUESTIONING BY EMBASSY OFFICIAL REVEALED "FRIEND" IS
A MAN CALLED "MEDWI" (SIC) (BELIEVED TO BE LIBYAN
NATIONAL), WHO OFTEN REQUESTS CIANTAR BROS. LTD. TO
MAKE PURCHASES ON HIS BEHALF. IN THIS INSTANCE, THE
REQUEST IS FOR 4,000 JEEPS (AN EQUAL NUMBER OF TWO
DIFFERENT MODELS), A NUMBER OF PREFABRICATED MOBILE
HOMES AND STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK FOR HANGARS. ACCORDING TO
BONELLO, ALTHOUGH SAUDI ARABIA WILL BE SHOWN
AS THE FINAL DESTINATION ON SHIPPING
DOCUMENTS, THE CARGO ACTUALLY WILL BE OFF LOADED
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IN TRIPOLI OR BENGHAZI, AND IT IS ULTIMATELY

DESTINED FOR USE BY THE LIBYAN MILITARY.

2. FOR THE TIME BEING, THE EMBASSY HAS RESTRICTED ITS ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDING CIANTAR BROS. LTD. WITH THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF CHRYSLER CORPORATION AND THE JEEP INTERNATIONAL SUBSIDIARY OF AMERICAN MOTORS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED IF PROPOSED TRANSACTION WOULD CONTRAVENE CURRENT U.S. EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS, SO THAT ANY FUTURE EMBASSY DEALINGS WITH MALTESE FIRM CAN BE APPROPRIATELY GUIDED BY SUCH REGULATIONS. PLEASE ADVISE. SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS, MILITARY VEHICLES, MILITARY SALES, END USE CHECKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VALLET00043
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760012-0079
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760160/aaaacbqg.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF U.S. JEEPS FOR LIBYAN MILITARY USE
TAGS: ESTC, MASS, MT, LY, SA, US
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006